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VZCZCMAY090ILN353 ~~S E C R E T~~

MULT 74165

ACTION

DIA1

DISTR

CJCS DJS J3(14) J5(02) NMCC NMIC SECDEF1 ASD1ISA(10)
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- SECSTATE WASH DC
- C I A

NSA

- WHITE HOUSE WASH DC

MCCC1

- CSAF WASH DC
- CNO WASH DC
- CSA WASH DC

PTC FILE(1)

(042)

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Authority: EO 13526
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Date: *Oct 19, 2018*

~~NOFORN~~

TRANSIT/041202Z/041351Z/001149TOR1561351

OE RUESBAA #0438 1561219

ZNY ~~SSSSS~~ (b)(3):10 USC 424

P 041202Z JUN 76

FM [redacted]

TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC

INFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS

BT

~~S E C R E T/NNINTEL/NOFORN~~ 0438 JUNE 1976

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

THIS IS IR [redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424

1. AR
2. KIDNAPPING OF ARMY OFFICER (U)
3. N/A (b)(3):10 USC 424
4. 1976, JUNE 1
5. 1976, JUNE 1 (b)(3):10 USC 424
6. [redacted]
7. PRESS, [redacted]
8. [redacted]
9. 1976, JUNE 2 (b)(3):10 USC 424
10. N/A
11. (b)(3):10 USC 424
12. [redacted]
13. [redacted]
14. [redacted]
15. I. ~~(U)/NNINTEL/NOFORN~~ ON 30 MAY 76 AT APPROXIMATELY 1840 HOURS NEAR THE CITY OF LA PLATA (ETPPS-5800W)

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COL JUAN PITA WAS KIDNAPPED BY AN UNIDENTIFIED GROUP OF TERRORISTS. COL PITA WHO WAS APPOINTED AS INTERVENTOR OF THE CGT ON 28 APR WAS ENROUTE TO HIS HOME ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN WHEN HE WAS SURPRISED AND SEIZED BY THE KIDNAPPERS. HIS WIFE AND FAMILY WERE NOT MOLESTED AND WERE LEFT IN THE VEHICLE.
2. ~~(C/WNINTEL/NOFORN)~~ TO DATE REPORTS PUBLISHED IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS INDICATE NO NEWS REGARDING COL PITA'S STATUS. UNOFFICIAL AND UNCONFIRMED REPORTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED STATING THAT COL PITA WAS KILLED THE SAME DAY HE WAS KIDNAPPED, ALTHOUGH NO FURTHER DETAILS WERE AVAILABLE CONCERNING THE COLONEL'S DEMISE.
3. ~~(SECRET/WNINTEL/NOFORN)~~ ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES CAME OUT IN FORCE ON MONDAY, 31 MAY. ROADBLOCKS WERE SET UP AT MANY POINTS IN HOPES OF LOCATING THE PERPETRATERS OF THE PITA KIDNAPPING. ELSEWHERE IN THE NATION THE ARMED FORCES HAVE INCREASED THEIR ANTI-SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES AND ARE CARRYING THE BATTLE TO THE TERRORISTS. AS MANY AS 28 GUERRILLAS HAVE BEEN KILLED BY GOVT FORCES WITHIN THE LAST WEEK. A USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTS THAT ONE OPERATION LAST WEEK IN BUENOS AIRES NETTED AN ERP/MONTONERO CELL. DOCUMENTS CAPTURED IN THE RAID INDICATED THAT THE CELL WAS PLANNING AN ASSASSINATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST HIGH RANKING ARMED FORCES OFFICERS HOLDING KEY POSITIONS IN THE GOVT. AS A RESULT OF CAPTURED INFORMATION, SEVERAL OPERATIONS WERE MOUNTED AGAINST SUSPECTED TERRORIST HIDEOUTS WHICH PRODUCED SOME OF THE GUERRILLA CASUALTIES CITED ABOVE. THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ERP (NFI) WAS REPORTED KILLED BY ARMY TROOPS IN ONE OF THE ENSUING GUN BATTLES. IN ADDITION, THE ANTI-SUBVERSIVE OPERATIONS UNCOVERED A SUB COMISSARIO IN THE FEDERAL POLICE (NFI) WHO WAS A HIGH RANKING ERP OFFICER. FURTHER LISTS WERE FOUND IDENTIFYING TERRORISTS LEADERS AND FUNCTIONARIES, TO INCLUDE COMMISARIO GENERAL PINTO, FORMER POLICE CHIEF UNDER MRS. PERON.
4. ~~(C/WNINTEL/NOFORN)~~ COMMENT: OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT REACTION TO THE PITA KIDNAPPING HAS BEEN RATHER SUBDUED. NEVERTHELESS, SENTIMENT IS RUNNING HIGH AMONG THE OFFICER CORPS REGARDING THE KIDNAP AND POSSIBLE DEATH OF THE CGT INTERVENTOR. THE LOW RISK KIDNAPPING OPERATION TRIGGERED A REACTION FROM THE ARMED

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FORCES THAT COULD BE COSTLY FOR THE TERRORIST. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT HARD LINERS IN THE MILITARY RANKS WILL PRESS FOR STERNER MEASURERS IN THE ANTI-SUBVERSIVE CAMPAIGN. COL PITA WAS A HIGHLY REGARDED AND RESPECTED OFFICER WHO HAD SERVED FOR SEVERAL YEARS AS THE ARMY'S PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER PRIOR TO HIS APPOINTMENT AS CGT INTERVENTOR. IF HIS BODY SHOULD BE FOUND IN AN ALLEY, LTG VIDELA MAY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO RECONCILE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE MODERATES AND HARDLINERS.
THIS MSG HAS BEEN COORD/WITH EMBASSY.
~~XGDS-2.~~
BT
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ANNOTES
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